

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /050 W  
----- 012060

R 121631Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2939

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0944

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US  
SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS DIFFICULTIES IN DAMASCUS--LUDINGTON CASE

REF: A. DAMASCUS 678; B. BEIRUT 2530

1. FARES HAS NOW RECEIVED HIS PRESS CREDENTIALS.

2. ON BASIS DISCUSSION WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD WITH MININFO  
ISKANDER AHMAD LAST WEEK, WE CONCLUDE THEREIS AN INFORMAL  
"BLACKLIST" OF JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE WRITTEN MATERIAL  
DEEMED UNFAVORABLE TO SYRIA. PRESENT MININFO  
OPPOSES SUCH BLACKLIST. HOWEVER, HE HAS APPARENTLY AUTHORIZED  
DISTINCTION TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE "GOOD AND BAD" JOURNALISTS  
IN TERMS OF THE LEVEL WITHIN THE SARG OF OFFICIALS WHOM HIS  
MINISTRY WILL ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS. JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED  
UNFAVORABLE STORIES DO NOT GET THE MINISTRY TO SUPPORT  
THEIR APPOINTMENT REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND ABOVE.

3. WE SECURED NO CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF ANY PROCEDURES  
RE PRIOR CLEARANCES FOR STORIES FILED FROM  
DAMASCUS. WILL PURSUE THIS SUBJECT FURTHER.

4. RE LUDINGTON CASE: MININFO STATED FLATLY HE HELD  
FARES AND NOT LUDINGTON RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION TO FILE STORIES  
WHICH LED TO LUDINGTON'S ARREST. MINISTER TOLD  
AMBASSADOR LUDINGTON COULD BE ASSURED HE NOT ON BLACKLIST  
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AND WAS WELCOME BACK IN SYRIA. AT SAME TIME MINISTER

SAID HE WISHED BE PERSONALLY INFORMED PRIOR LUDINGTON'S  
NEXT VISIT HERE, IN ORDER HELP AVOID ANY  
COMPLICATIONS.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISCRIMINATION, JOURNALISTS, LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC00944  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750087-0308  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 DAMASCUS 678, 75 BEIRUT 2530  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSOCIATED PRESS DIFFICULTIES IN DAMASCUS--LUDINGTON CASE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, US, AP-1, (FARES, LOUIS)  
**To:** BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
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